Will Be the Greatest Single Sanitary Task Ever Undertaken.

American Doctors and Engineers Booked for a Job Surpassing Havana and Santingo-Character of the Work.

(Copyright, 1904, by William Thorp.) Three medical experts connected with the United States army and navy have thousands of men who will be employed to dig Uncle Sam's big ditch may be safeguarded. It will be a very much bigger job than the cleaning up of Cuba after the the greatest single sanitary task ever undertaken by civilized man.

worst territories in the world, if not the not necessary to despair on that account. Up to the present time modern sanitation out. has not tried what it can do on the isthmus.

De Lesseps' French Canal company, though it spent barrels of money lavishly in many directions, never made any serious attempt to render the territory less unhealthy. The Frenchmen, apparently, believed in prevention rather than cure. They built fine hospitals and sanitariums instead of draining the swamps, cleaning out of disease. One large sanitarium, erected fruitful causes of malaria and other dison the island of Toboga, in the Bay of eases. Panama, cost the Panama Universal Interoceanic company over \$500,000, and the principal hospital of the company, at Panama, must have cost, from first to last, after they are discharged from the hosavoid the forfeiture of the franchise.

did efficiency has attracted the admiration of many foreign doctors who have visited Panama. But the large sums of money they have cost would have been better spent in preventing disease. The American medical experts will give their first and principal attention to that task, although they will probably also recommend the maintenance and enlargement of the hospital and sanitarium work.

Unsanitary Towns.

The city of Panama and the town of Colon, the terminal points of the canal, are just about as unsanitary as any towns could be. A large building in Panama was used several years ago as a charity hospital, and many hundreds of people died there of yellow fever. It was abandoned as a hospital, and is now used as a storehouse. "As it never was disinfected or fumigated in any shape or manner, to my mind it is a hotbed of the disease," said Dr. Wolfred Nelson, a Canadian physician who spent five years on the isthmus.

This is only a single example of many similar plague spots which exist today in Panama and Colon, unheeded by the ignorant, supine local authorities. It is no wonder that the death rate in Panama for the week ended March 13 last was ninety per 1,000 of population, as compared with a death rate of twenty-one in the least healthy city of the United States. In Colon during the same week the death rate was fifty-two, which was an exceptionally low figure for that town.

Nobody who has not visited the isthmus can credit the filthiness of the conditions under which the population lives. It has been well said that "the filth of ages" is average peasant, he wears a raiment of dirt-and very little else-from his birth to his death, and seldom does he change it,

Unlike the majority of tropical peoples, the Isthmians have a rooted objection to bathing, and in consequence they suffer from many loathsome skin diseases. As a be rigidly enforced by military discipline. Heat and Rain

Practically speaking, the streets of Panama and Colon are only cleaned by the torrential storms of the rainy season. Colon is intensely hot and sickly in the dry season, locally termed "the healthy season," and, in the words of a local doctor, is "death-dealing and pestiferous" in the wet season, which lasts for nearly eight months

out of the twelve. From a commercial point of view the town is built upon an excellent site; from a sanitary point of view, on the very worst possible site. The center of the place is practically a lagoon. Houses are built all around the swampy ground, and in some cases actually upon it. There is scarcely any outlet for the foul, fermenting water, which naturally breeds disease all the year

This disgraceful state of affairs will, of course, be remedied without delay by the American doctors and engineers as soon as they take charge of the sanitation of the town. Proper drainage will be provided, the swamp reclaimed and the health of the town will be improved more than 100 per cent by that one work alone.

The worst sanitary feature about Panama is its suburbs. "They are common and unclean," said Dr. Nelson, "and in many places grossly offensive to the eye, and smelling unto heaven. The civil authorities of Panama are to blame. Money enough, in all conscience, is exacted from the merchants and others to keep things as they should be. They are very careful about the collection

of that money, but there it ends. This is the kind of thing you see in the

COMING CLEAN-UP IN PANAMA suburbe: A lane leading from a main thoroughfare to the seashore, with both of its sides lined with piles and piles of rubbish and old bedding, or bedding on which people have died. The natives of Panama, after a death, throw away cots, mattresses, pillows, and often the eating utensils of the 'departed.' As many people on the isthmus CAUSE OF DISEASE ON THE ISTHMUS die of yellow fever and smallpox, this practice simply means a perpetuation of the

infectious and contagious diseases named. "The authorities never do anything more than publish an item upon reform in 'La Cronista,' or 'La Estrella de Panama.' This is deemed ample, as it gives the people something to think about; and yet these authorities fondly fancy that they are sanitarians of the first order.

"I remember an old well near the gas works, one of those huge stone wells gone to Panama to make the preliminary which the Spaniards were so fond of of the period, yet it is a field as yet but arrangements for the cleaning up of the building. That well had been filled in with partially explored for romance, myth or isthmus, so that the lives of the many just such bedding, and at last the pile reality. Almost every portion of the terri-That is their way, and a very bad one it the scene of thrilling adventure or incidents

It will be seen, from these few facts American occupation. It will be, perhaps, that the unhealthy state of Colon and ous thing happened-curious even in a state Panama is due largely, if not entirely, to that nature has so twisted and contorted The isthmus of Panama is one of the sanitation along the lines adopted in Cuba ground for geologists and for geologists as very worst, from a sanitary point of view, vious that the people will have to be and its record of disease and death for centering disciplined by the American autrice past has been appailing. But it is would speedly remove. It is equally obcenturies of ignorance can be stamped

Conditions Inland.

So much for the cities, but the unhealthiness of the isthmus is by no means due the rivers and making war on other foci fresh water in the lagoons and rivers are ranches and beribboned with small water

the isthmus on account of the heat and mountains intense humidity of the climate, and those same causes make vegetable decomposiconsiderably over \$1,000,000. The canal offi- tion equally rapid. Wherever you go upon cials and laborers are sent to the sani- the isthmus, you see vast massas of rot- most of the mountain scenery in the southtarium to repair their wasted strength ting vegetation; occasionally you may ern part of the state. In that clear atmoscome across almost a whole forest which pitals, and in the old days the institu- is in decay. The air is consequently laden feet upon the senses of such illimitable tion was slways crowded. Nowadays there with miasmatic poison, especially in the miles of untenanted hill and valley and are not many persons there, for only a vicinity of rivers or lagoons, where this plain, all done in somber hues of brown and small force of men has been employed on vegetable decomposition is naturally at gray and dull green, is strangely solemn the canal works during the last two or its worst. Some of the smaller streams majestic and poetical. Only far to the three years, and those simply in order to are almost choked by rotten vegetable southward is the contrast, for there a matter. It will be necessary for the streak of white upon the horison shows The hospitals and the sanitarium are the American sanitarians to celan them out, where the loftler mountains of Colorado only institutions of which the French com- and burn the decomposing vegetation all wear all summer their unshorn locks of pany has a right to be proud; their splen- along the canal zone, so far as it is possible to do so.

The mingling of the salt and fresh water lem apparently impossible of solution. According to Dr. Nelson-who may, perhaps, ating intense forms of malarial polson,

Terrible Mortality.

terrible mortality in the labor camps of the French Canal company was largely due to the fact that many of them were pitched in the worst parts of the low-lying "malarial belt." Later on, the Canal company built numbers of small not to be supposed that that mistake will be repeated.

Many of the causes of the unhealthiness of the isthmus can be removed, and the ghastly death roll of the Panama Railroad tinciness when he looks at the mountain company and the French Canal company will not be repeated, but it is not conceivable that the isthmus can ever be made as healthy a country as Cuba has been. There exist natural conditions prejudicial stored away in most of the houses, even in any doctor or engineer to remedy. People circle merely marks the crater of an extinct to health which are beyond the power of who live on the isthmus for years, slowly soaking the miasmatic and malarial poisons into their blood, will fall victims to disease even after the American cleaning

But epidemics will be stamped out, or not allowed to originate; and there will be no repetition of the terrible sacrifice of number of natives will doubtless be em- life which has been inseparable from forployed along the canal works in various mer isthmian enterprise. Whole shiploads capacities, if not actually as laborers, regu- of laborers died off like flies in a few weeks lations for personal cleanliness will have to | after landing; and many hundreds of men never did a stroke of work because they fell ill almost immediately they reached isthmian soil. American experience will surely prove that there was no need for such a frightful hecatomb of lives. HAROLD JENKINS.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

Trades unions have existed in China for 4,000 years. America furnished Japan with 280,000,000 pounds of flour in 1903. Seventy-five per cent of the 3,000 employes n the bureau of printing and engraving

There are now 1.535,167 telephone sta-lons of the Beil company, with nearly ,000,000 miles of circuit, as shown by its 4,000,000 miles cannual report.

There is no European country in which women clerks are more employed than in France. It is rare to enter a French shop and find a man serving as an accountant.

con hemisphere.

Land around the bayous of Louisiana and Texas, which until 1896 were classed as worthless, now yield \$25,000,000 worth of rice. About 160 Japanese expert rice growers are in this region.

Because of the fact that there is no general convention of the painters' union this year the locals over the country have been called upon to vote upon 308 amendments to the general constitution.

During the recent strike of printers at Boston, Mass, the amount of strike benefits in some instances exceeded the wages received during employment, some of the men working for \$12\$ a week having received \$7\$ weekly from the International Typographical union and the same amount from the local organization.

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MYSTERY IN A MAGIC RING

of Wyoming.

NEAR APPROACH DISPELS THE ILLUSION

Condition-Material for the Mythmakers on the Boundless Plains.

many a thrilling romance to the literature coned up above the mouth of the well. tory west of the Missouri river has been

replete with human interest. In the southern part of Wyoming a curicauses which the enforcement of modern in the making that it is a happy hunting

turies past has been appailing. But it is therities before the evil customs rooted in of a low mountain, one of a modest range, rado-Wyoming line. Many curious fancies have been indulged in to explain it, but still it holds its mystery. The natives point it out as one of the attractions of the region. The road over which trains of wagons to their foul condition klone. According haul copper ore from the Rambler mine to to Dr. Wolfred Nelson and other medical the shipping point at Laramie passes within authorities who have studied the question ten miles of this mountain. Leaving the carefully, the large decomposition of vege- wide plain, whose brown and green extable matter and the mixture of salt and panse is specked here and there with courses, the road strikes southward into the hill country and presently begins to climb Vegetable growth is extremely rapid on a wide, easy pass between two ranges of

A Marvelous Atmosphere.

The hills grow and grow, but maintain a rounded aspect, which is characteristic of

Through that rare atmosphere, which the wind perpetually is cleaning, the circle on in the lagoons and rivers presents a prob- the mountain suddenly chmes into view, as the vehicle on the wagon road climbs to the summit of a hill. In July the mounbe regarded as the best and most ex- tain's sloping shoulder bears still a faintly perienced authority on the sanitation of greenish hue, though the thin grass is the isthmus-this mixture of water "is con- slowly browning in the sun. The circle sidered to be of great importance in cre- shows dull gray at that distance and is marked with such clearness and symmetry particularly on tidal coasts like that of that it holds the attention steadily. It grows more and more distinct till the observer has approached within a mile of it. Then it slowly fades into the monotonous expanse of small boulders, sage brush and

When first seen the circle appears to be about 200 feet in diameter and looks like an frame houses on high ground above that endiess path that had been trodden in the belt for their workmen, who were then turf by horses walking there for days and fairly free from disease. This policy will days, or like the ring left by some great have to be adopted by the American build- circus. But it is a singular circumstance ers of the canal, at all events until the that when the curious observer has carelow-lying territory has been made thor- fully climbed to the spot where the circle oughly healthy. The filthy manner in ought to be it is not there. The most which the laborers were permitted to live searching scrutiny fails to reveal even the by the French authorities was also re- faintest sign of it. The sandy soil apsponsible for thousands of deaths. It is pears to be exactly similar at every point upon the slope and no stones or grass or brush show a sign of dislocation. Though he try and try again, the visitor will not find the circle that stands out with disfrom a distance.

The indigenous fancy has extracted a good deal of casual amusement from this phenomenon, and one may take one's pick of several theories offered. Some would, volcano, but there is not a particle of testimony in the rocks or the character of the country to support that theory. There never was a volcano within 100 miles of this

What Traditions Say.

The Indians did something or other there, say same. Once all this region was the home of Chevennes and Utes and a tradition has been concocted that on this mountain side there was a great war council and that the moccasins of warriors treading the savage measures of the war dance were a ring upon the sandy earth. But if that were true there would still beyond question be some substantial evidences of that material performance. For similar reasons other hypotheses of cattle or sheep or horses having made the ring for whatever purpose or in whatever circumstance imaginable, are equally untenable. When the mountains skipped like rams and the little hills like the lambs of the flock did nature bring a branding iron to bear upon one mischievons maverick?

There is nothing left, in short, but the supernatural or the mythological to explain the wonder. People of an older civflization, inheritng vase legendary lore of gods and devils, would have invested the magic ring with such riches of tradition as would give it a deep religious significance. So there it waits for the devout or

The electrical railways of the United States have 24,000 miles of track. The motor has displaced 8,000 horses. But 281 miles of horse car lines remain.

The bleunial election of officers of the International Typographical union takes place Wednesday May 18, by a referendum vote of the membership all over the western hemisphers.

Land around the bayous of Vertices. has told a pretty story of the "Mount of the Holy Cross." But for the most part the brief imagination of pioneers, sheep herders and gold hunters has been let alone to give to chasms and rocks the name of the devil's this-or-that, without relating

what the devil did there. In the west, particularly, satan appears to have been very active in the formative period of the earth, and to have left remarkable evidences of his habits in the gamboled with his courtiers. Perhaps it was his demon majesty who did that little trick on the Wyoming mountain side and the inhabitants of Albany county, Wyoming, would be grateful for a legend, artificially aged, like other antiquities, that would relate the details of some awful rite or unholy play upon the hill by the devil's titanic followers. Say it were something

With slouch and swing around the ring
We trod the fool's parade!
eW dld not care, we knew we were
The Devil's Own brigade;
And shaven head and feet of lead
Make a merry masquerade. -Chicago Chronicle.

Seine Bridal Couple.

George F. Stevenson, eminent com mander of the Knights Templar of Little Falls, N. Y., and one of the most prom-inent members of the Masonio fraternity in central New York, was married to Miss Edith A. Schill of that city.

The wedding was intended to be a very quiet affair, but relatives and friends prepared a surprise. The carriages containing the bridal party were held up and a mili-tary band in hiding led the procession. Accompanied by music, red fire and torchthe bridal couple were forced to parade through the principal streets.



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Sophronia I. Carnes

2056 Cooper St. Indianapolis, Ind.

Sophronia I. Carnes, Director, Domestie Science Club, Indianapolis, Ind.

2056 Cooper St., Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 30, 1903. I suffered for nearly seven years with female trouble, bearing down pains, and at times intense agony. The doctor said that I had strained myself and produced prolapsus uteri. It was a chronic and constant affection, forbidding any considerable effort. And at times I was confined for days to my bed. I felt a weight and a heaviness in the lower abdomen and across the back and loins and a sensation as if everything had fallen out when standing. There were frequent sensations of faintness at the pit of the stomach, but all these pains are a thing of the past, and four month's use of Wine of Cardui brought about a complete cure. I feel that I must give it all praise for it has changed life completely

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